Fun local events allow northern New Mexico students to explore career options

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One of Los Alamos National Laboratory's strategic goals is to ensure a vital workforce today and in the years ahead so that we can continue to serve our mission in the national interest. Part of this commitment is giving northern New Mexico students the opportunity to explore STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields as career choices.

Northern New Mexico has a number of wonderful STEM-related events planned for students this spring that are supported by the Laboratory and allow participants to gain first#hand STEM experience and have fun in the process.

At the annual Northern New Mexico Expanding Your Horizons conference on March 6 in Santa Fe, for example, middle and high school girls will have a chance to explore STEM careers through hands-on activities and opportunities to meet potential role models.

The next day, March 7, northern New Mexico students can attend or participate in the Second Annual Northern New Mexico RoboRAVE Rally in Española and get ready for the RoboRAVE International in Albuquerque, which attracts teams from as far away as Japan, China, France and Colombia. Both RoboRAVE events are designed to make robotics and STEM learning experiences accessible to any child, anywhere.

Finally, the Supercomputing Challenge on April 20 and April 21 in Los Alamos is a nationally recognized competition that prepares the next generation of northern New Mexico students to compete in an information-based economy.

I hope to see many budding physicists, chemists, biologists, computer scientists, engineers and mathematicians at these events. Perhaps a good number of them even will decide to work at the Laboratory as high school, undergraduate or graduate students; post-doctoral candidates; or long#term staff members.

- *Carol Burns*